

- (f) identifying a filtering segment comprising a plurality of filtering segment pixels arrayed in a direction parallel to said filtering axis;
- (g) identifying a filtering range comprising at least one said filtering segment pixel on each side of said block boundary; and
- (h) filtering said filtering segment pixels of said filtering range to smooth said decompressed image.

19 (Original). The method of claim 18 further comprising the steps of:

- (a) comparing a difference between pixels of a contiguous filtering segment pixel pair to a continuity threshold;
- (b) repeating step (a) for filtering segment pixel pairs located successively more remote from said block boundary until said difference exceeds said continuity threshold; and
- (c) limiting said filtering range to an array of successively more remote filtering segment pixels on each side of said block boundary; each pixel being a member of a filtering segment pixel pair characterized by said difference being less said continuity threshold.

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27 type
20-28 (canceled).

28 (Previously presented). A method of post processing a decompressed image comprising the steps of:

- (a) selecting a block of image pixels for filtering as a function of a quantization parameter and a quantization parameter threshold;
- (b) establishing a filtering axis relatively parallel to an image edge in said block wherein the step of establishing a filtering axis relatively parallel to an image edge in said block in said block comprises the steps of:
 - (i) designating a plurality of candidate axes;